

**ROBBYN LEWIS**  
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Health and Government Operations  
Committee

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Health Occupations and Long Term Care

Public Health and Minority  
Health Disparities

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Program Open Space  
and Agricultural Land Preservation

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Sponsor Testimony in Support of HB1008 – Maryland Energy Administration - Electric  
Bicycle Rebate Program – Establishment**

Thank you, Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee. I am Delegate Robbyn Lewis here on behalf of HB1008, that will help low- and moderate-income Maryland families to afford electric bicycles, or “e-bikes”. This bill will help achieve to goals: first, to electrify the transportation sector and to make the sector equitable.

Before describing what this bill does, it’s important to highlight the importance of bicycles, including e-bikes as a mode of transportation. They are not just for rich white guys in lycra shorts on; they are for everyone who has somewhere to go. E-bikes can replace car trips; according to the Federal Highway Administration, in 2017 about 60% of all trips in privately-owned vehicles are short, less than 6 miles. E-bikes are perfect for short trips. And in terms of racial equity, evidence shows that African Americans are the fastest growing segment of bike riders.

E-bikes look like regular bikes, with pedals and handlebars, but they have a small electric motor that can be used to go faster, maintain speed with less effort, or go uphill. This “electric assist” is “leg up” for people who are older, or have breathing challenges like asthma, or who have some disabilities. E-bikes are the next frontier in equitable, energy-smart transportation.

This bill follows the lead of places like Denver Colorado, and Austin Texas, which have launched programs to make e-bike ownership more accessible. It creates a rebate program for low- and moderate-income households – who most need access to more transportation options – to afford to buy an e-bike. In Philadelphia, African Americans are using rental e-bikes at a greater rate than white, affluent residents. Yet ownership of these bikes remains out of reach. This bill will fix that.

In closing, thank you for your consideration and respectfully request a favorable report for HB1008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robbyn Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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